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Culture of peace

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 25 March 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of El Salvador, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note dated 24 March 2014 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, Mr. Jaime Miranda Flamenco, conveying my country's position on the recent developments and attempts at rapprochement made by the Government of Honduras concerning the situation of the Gulf of Fonseca (see annex).

As in the case of our previous communication addressed to you, dated 11 November 2013 (A/68/581), which precedes the present communication in terms of its content, I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 33, 41 and 76 (a).

(*Signed*) Rubén Armando E. **Hasbún**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 March 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you regarding the request made by the Government of the Republic of Honduras, through its Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mary Flores, on 4 March 2014, concerning the appointment and subsequent sending of a high-level United Nations representative to ascertain in situ the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca, which has been historically and geographically shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

In that regard, and in line with the position of the Government of El Salvador, as set out in the letter I sent you through our Permanent Representative to the United Nations on 11 November 2013 (A/68/581), I wish to reiterate that the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca is governed by the framework established by the Heads of State and Government of the coastal States of the Gulf in their declarations dated 4 October 2007, 30 March 2012, 4 December 2012 and 8 May 2013, copies of which are attached hereto.*

In view of the foregoing, the Gulf of Fonseca has been declared a zone of peace, sustainable development and security; in addition, the relevant institutional mechanisms have been established to ensure that such situations as may arise in that connection, irrespective of their nature, are considered and resolved by the trinational commission headed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the three countries.

The Government of El Salvador therefore believes that it is not necessary to appoint or to send to the Gulf of Fonseca a high-level United Nations representative on a fact-finding mission or other related activity, as has been requested by the Government of Honduras, given that doing so would violate the spirit and the letter of the aforementioned presidential agreements.

Moreover, the Government of El Salvador regrets and condemns the provocative stance that the Government of Honduras has recently taken with regard to Conejo Island, on which it has opened a heliport and other infrastructure projects, in clear violation of El Salvador's sovereignty over the island. Through its actions, Honduras has irrefutably demonstrated an expansionist attitude as a direct result of its illegal military occupation of Conejo Island, which violates international law and the purposes and principles established in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular respect for State sovereignty and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Government of El Salvador therefore requests that you continue to promote dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes with regard to the situation in the Gulf of Fonseca, through the framework established by the Managua Declaration of 4 October 2007 and in direct consultation with the three coastal countries of the Gulf.

In addition, whenever issues related to the promotion of the Gulf of Fonseca as a zone of peace, sustainable development and security are taken up within the multilateral framework of the United Nations, they should only be addressed under agenda item 41 of the General Assembly, entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

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* The texts referred to are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.